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California State Senate

SENATOR
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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WELCOMING COMMENTS to SLAART MEMBERS

From

THE HONORABLE CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
STATE SENATOR, 26TH DISTRICT

September 30, 2009

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you to the inaugural meeting of the South Los Angeles Autism Regional Taskforce. This task force is a regional body of the statewide effort to develop a plan for a new system for individuals living with autism. At the state level, a similar working group has been assembled to include family members of people living with autism, service providers, educators, administrators and researchers. This group is charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive report of recommendations for addressing autism.


In the past 15 years, the number of individuals in California diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has risen dramatically. Moreover, state and local agencies responsible for providing care to this population, particularly in the Special Education and Mental Health systems, have struggled to meet their needs, often lacking the appropriate resources and planning.

You are about to play an important role in helping to shape the future of autism treatment and services in the State of California and the Greater Los Angeles area for years to come. As a member of the South Los Angeles Regional Taskforce, you will be expected over the next several months to share your expertise and insights into the practice and problems associated with the current autism service delivery system, and to come up with potential solutions. The regional taskforce will be chaired by Areva D. Martin, Esq.

Each current member of the Senate Select Committee on Autism has been authorized to appoint a regional task force made up of their district's most knowledgeable, dedicated, and passionate parents, professionals, and other stakeholders to identify the problems and prioritize solutions in the four key focus areas: Early Identification and Treatment, Insurance, Training and Employment and Housing.

Once again, I would like to welcome you to the South Los Angeles Autism Regional Taskforce and wish you much success. Over the next 14 months, your work and dedication will help the Senate Select Committee on Autism build on the existing ground work and set legislative priorities to improve the lives of people with autism and their families. I applaud you for your service to the State of California.

Sincerely,


CURREN PRICE, JR.
Senator, 26th Senate District